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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (2 Mar 67) FOR OT

7 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 32d Medical Depot

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 32nd Medical Depot for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
a/s

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(Continued on page 2)

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THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE  
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AND ONLY AFTER PRIOR APPROVAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 32ND MEDICAL DEPOT  
APO 96312, US Forces

AVCA-1B-DP

6 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,  
RCS CSFOR 65

THRU: Commanding Officer  
Headquarters, 44th Medical Brigade  
APO 96307

Commanding General  
Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command  
ATTN: AVCA GO-O  
APO 96307

Commanding General  
United States Army, Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHGC-DH  
APO 96307

Commander in Chief  
United States Army, Pacific  
ATTN: GPDP-OT  
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Force Development  
Department of the Army (ACSEOR DA)  
Washington, D.C. 20310

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMLAND:

1. During the reporting period, the following dignitaries visited this activity:

6 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,  
RCS CSFOR 65SECTION II, PART IOBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)A. PERSONNEL:

Item: Newly assigned officers and noncommissioned officer personnel, on most part, do not have adequate supply experience.

Discussion: Newly assigned officers have been graduates of the Medical Supply and Services Procedures Course, Medical Field Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, but their lack of supply experience imposes numerous problems when assigned to an operating depot. An assignment with a Class I or Class II hospital supply and service division, where these individuals could actually receive on-the-job training prior to being assigned to an operating depot in the combat zone is highly desirable. Likewise, the noncommissioned officer to be assigned to an operating medical supply depot should be highly selected and only those that possess the potential should be assigned to depot operations. Heretofore, the majority of noncommissioned officers assigned to this depot have had very little supply experience. Their supply experience, on most part, has been with divisional medical units which is quite a contrast from medical depot operations in both scope and magnitude.

Observation: Both officer and noncommissioned officers should be screened at Department of the Army level to ensure that only those that have adequate supply experience in either station medical supply and/or depots are assigned to the one and only operating U.S. Army Medical Depot in Vietnam. Foregoing would preclude the many hours currently devoted to training these individuals in their depot role and would permit an easier and smoother transition upon replacement notwithstanding the increased efficiency that would result.

B. OPERATIONS:

Item: Relocation of 32nd Medical Depot from Nha Trang to Cam Ranh Bay during the period 1 August 1966 to 31 October 1966.

Discussion: On 1 August 1966, a contingent of one officer and sixteen enlisted personnel were sent from Nha Trang to Cam Ranh Bay to commence the major task of establishing the necessary facilities for the relocation of the depot headquarters and base platoon of the 32nd Medical Depot from Nha Trang to Cam Ranh Bay. Their initial problem was to prepare the covered storage facilities consisting of six warehouses, each warehouse being two hundred and twenty feet in length and forty feet in width with an overall covered storage capacity of fifty two thousand and eight hundred square feet of covered storage. Shelves were procured and erected for loose issue box and flat pallets were fabricated for storage operations and receipt of supplies from both Okinawa and CONUS was in progress during the entire development period. During this same period some five hundred and eighty conexes filled with medical supplies and equipment,

6 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,  
RCS CSFOR 65

were shipped from Nha Trang to Cam Ranh Bay by landing ship tanks (LST's). The magnitude of operations was almost unbelievable but through concerted efforts on the part of all concerned together with sixteen to eighteen duty hours per day, the mission was accomplished without unduly impairing the medical supply support of the customers. During this same period, a portion of the assigned personnel, through self-help, erected the billet area to include unit mess, orderly room, unit supply, motor maintenance etc.. In addition thereto, a double quonset to house the depot headquarters and stock control division was erected through self help.

Observation: Any assigned task, if programmed properly and in an orderly manner, can normally be accomplished within available resources. Many times, the confronted tasks appeared unsurmountable but with proper direction and foresight, together with the will of all concerned to accomplish the task, the near impossible becomes a reality.

### C. LOGISTICS:

Item: Unsuitability of locally procured flat and box pallets

Discussion: Heretofore, both flat and box pallets were being procured within country. Subject items were fabricated from a local gum wood which were infested with an Asiatic beetle that closely resembles the termite. In less than three months, these beetles actually consumed the pallets to such an extent that they became a safety hazard. Pallets constructed of hard wood were not locally available and the time required to effect procurement from offshore and/or COMUSMACV was extreme and definitely affected depot operations.

Observation: Pallets of a soft wood materiel, especially local procured, proved costly and highly undesirable. Only hardwood and/or metal pallets should be considered for use in Vietnam storage operations. Their initial cost is somewhat greater, but over an extended period of time, they would be more economical primarily due to non-infestation of hard wood by the Asiatic beetle. To preclude expenditure of US dollars for inferior products purchased locally, the base development plan should include the provision for adequate quantities of both flat and box hardwood pallets.

## SECTION II, PART II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Personnel: Only those officers and noncommissioned officers who have had previous medical supply experience in either depot and/or Class I or Class II hospitals be assigned to an operating medical depot in the combat zone. This, of necessity, will require appropriate screening by Department of the Army prior to publication of reassignment orders.



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AVCA-MB-DP

6 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,  
RCS CSFOR 65

2. Operations: Experience gained through the task of relocating the depot headquarters and base platoon of the 32nd Medical Depot, the sole medical supply depot in support of all US Army and Third Country Forces within Vietnam, from Nha Trang to Cam Ranh Bay has vividly reaffirmed the requirement that all concerned must be fully appraised of the requirement therefore and then through proper direction and motivation, the near impossible becomes a reality.

3. Logistics: Only hardwood flat and box pallets should be utilized in Vietnam. To preclude the local procurement of unsuitable soft wood pallets which are subjected to consumption by the Asiatic beetle, base development plans should provide for the stockpiling of adequate quantities of both flat and box hardwood pallets to properly support storage operations.



BERNARD F. KERVIN  
LTC, MSC  
Commanding

AVCA-MB-PO (15 Feb 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 31 January 1967.

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307 16 February 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Forces Development, Department of  
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

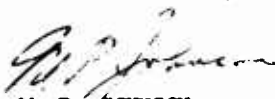
1. Operational Report - Lessons Learned for period ending 31  
January 1967, is forwarded in compliance with AR 1-19.
2. Reference is made Section II, Part II of the attached report.

a. Reference to paragraph 1, a letter has been sent from  
this headquarters to OTSG Supply Division indicating the difficulties  
with inexperienced Officers, NCOs, and EM. To alleviate the problem,  
a school has been started by OTSG to excellerate the training of  
stock control, depot, and hospital supply personnel.

b. Concur with paragraph 2.

c. Reference to paragraph 3, hardwood and/or adjustable  
metal pallets have been requested.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



M. P. JOHNSON  
Major, MSC  
Asst Adjutant

Lynx 382

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as